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ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL

Proposed consolidated mandates of the new subsidiary bodies of the Council

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present document contains, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council, the proposed consolidated mandates of the new subsidiary bodies of the Council. It also contains the draft provisional agenda for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and documentation for its first session, recommendations for the programme of work of the Committee on Natural Resources and the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the first session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

* E/1992/100.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic and Social Council, at its resumed organizational session for 1992, adopted decision 1992/218 entitled "Establishment of new subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council", by which the Council established a functional Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

2. By the same decision, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit, for approval by the Council at its substantive session of 1992, the consolidated mandate of the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/235, and a draft provisional agenda for the Commission.

3. The proposed consolidated mandate of the Commission has been derived on the basis of the decisions and recommendations contained in General Assembly resolutions 34/218, 41/183, 42/192, 44/14 and 46/235, as well as from the annex to resolution 7 (II) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, containing the terms of reference of the United Nations advisory body on science and technology for development. 1/

4. The items and reports in the draft provisional agenda have been proposed on the basis of General Assembly resolution 46/165, by which the Assembly endorsed the report of the former Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session, 2/ as well as standing mandates such as on inter-agency coordination. The item on science and technology for sustainable development has been reworded in order to reflect the implications envisaged from the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. By the same decision, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit recommendations for the programme of work of the Committee on Natural Resources for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 1992. The recommendations are contained in the present document.

6. In addition, by the same decision, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit, for approval by the Council at its substantive session of 1992, the consolidated mandates of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, which are contained in the present document, as are the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the first session of the Committee.

I. COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

A. Proposed mandates

7. The mandates applicable to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, set out below, are derived from General Assembly resolutions 34/218, 41/183, 42/192, 44/14 and 46/235, as well as from the annex to resolution 7 (II) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, containing the terms of reference of the United Nations advisory body on science and technology for development:

The Commission shall assist the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, in the following functions:

(a) Promoting and catalysing international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, in particular in developing countries, and in helping solve global scientific and technological problems;

(b) Formulating policy guidelines for the harmonization of policies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to scientific and technological activities, on the basis of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development; 3/

(c) Promoting the improvement of linkages between organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to ensuring the coordinated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(d) Identifying priorities for activities within the Vienna Programme of Action with a view to facilitating operational planning at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels;

(e) Monitoring the activities and programmes related to science and technology within the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(f) Promoting the optimum mobilization of resources in order to enable the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to carry out the activities of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(g) Providing policy guidance and priorities for activities of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development within the framework of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(h) Making an early identification and assessment of new scientific and technological developments that may adversely affect the development process as well as those that may have specific and potential importance for that process and for strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries;

(i) Choosing subjects of particular significance with major science and technology dimensions with a view to providing an assessment of technology and related policy analysis in order to facilitate the debate of the question in the General Assembly;

(j) Providing, at the request of the Economic and Social Council, such scientific and technical expert advice as may be necessary for the discharge of the mandate of the Council;

(k) Providing also, through the Economic and Social Council, expert advice to other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system.

B. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Substantive theme:

   The contribution of technologies, including new and emerging ones, for the industrialization of developing countries and for the strengthening of regional and global integration processes, including proposals on ways and means of transferring such technologies and for their incorporation in the productive sector of those countries.*

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of technologies, including new and emerging ones, for the industrialization of developing countries and for the strengthening of regional and global integration processes

4. Activities of the United Nations system:

   (a) Coordination and cooperation in science and technology within the United Nations system;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of improving the quality of coordination and cooperation in science and technology for development

   (b) Assessment of the impact of activities of the United Nations system related to the process of creating and strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the enhancement of the impact of the activities of the United Nations system on the creation and strengthening of endogenous capacities in science and technology

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* The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/165, requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and on the basis of the discussion of the substantive theme, to submit to the Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, a comprehensive analytical report on ways and means of strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries.

(c) Activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development in science and technology for development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development in science and technology for development

Report of the Meeting of High-level Experts on Science and Technology for Development (Bujumbura, 4-8 May 1992)

5. Ad hoc panels/workshops to examine specific issues of science and technology for development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the organization of ad hoc panels/ workshops on specific issues of science and technology for development

6. Science and technology for sustainable development:

(a) Scientific and technological implications of sustainable development;

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the implications of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, for the work of the Commission

(b) Transfer and application of environmentally sound energy technologies.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the utilization and marketing of energy technologies, focusing on policy issues and options for the transfer and application of environmentally sound energy technologies

7. Financing science and technology for development, including activities of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the organization of a coalition of resources to finance science and technology for development*

Report of the Secretary-General on funding arrangements for science and technology within the United Nations

8. Programme questions.

Documentation

Conference room paper on programme proposals for the biennium 1994-1995

9. Election of the Chairman and nomination of other officers for the second session of the Commission.

10. Provisional agenda and organization of work for the second session of the Commission.

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* The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/165, requested the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, at its twelfth session, or possible successor arrangements, after reviewing the report of the Secretary-General, to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, concrete proposals for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to meet the scientific and technological needs of developing countries.

II. COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

A. Draft provisional programme of work and documentation for the first session, 22 March-2 April 1993

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Permanent sovereignty of mineral and water resources.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources as related to mineral and water resources (Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/88, para. 5)

4. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing mineral and water resources.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on efforts to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries in the application of remote-sensing techniques to mineral and water resources (Council resolution 1991/89, para. 5)

5. Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing mineral and water resources.

   Documentation

   Oral report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 1991/306)

6. Outcome of the work of the Working Groups on mineral and water resources.

   Documentation

   Reports on the work of the Working Groups on mineral and water resources (General Assembly resolution 46/235)

7. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee on Natural Resources.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its first session.

B. Working Group on Water Resources: provisional agenda and documentation

1. Adoption of the programme of work and other organizational matters.

2. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing an overview of activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the context of their basic mandates, and a summary of meetings, seminars and conferences on water held during the biennium 1991-1992 (Council resolution 1991/85, paras. 9 and 10)

3. Matters arising from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 (Council resolution 1991/90, para. 5)

4. Issues concerning the sustainable development and use of water resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on human development issues that have a fundamental impact on the nature and direction of water resources policy, (Council resolution 1991/85, para. 9)

5. Cross-sectoral priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system of organizations:

(a) Information management;

(b) Capacity-building for water resources management.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing proposals for system-wide action on integrated monitoring of key indicators on the state of the world's freshwaters, and a strategic approach to information collection, processing and dissemination in the United Nations system of organizations. Report of the Secretary-General containing proposals for system-wide action on capacity-building for water resources management

6. Provisional programme of work for the second session of the Working Group.

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

C. Working Group on Mineral Resources: provisional agenda and documentation

1. Adoption of the programme of work and other organizational matters.

2. Flow of financial resources and technology transfer to developing countries to enable them to optimize the exploration and development of mineral resources.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries, including conclusions and recommendations of meetings and seminars related to mineral resources and information on the possibility of establishing geological information systems (Council resolution 1991/87, paras. 2, 3 and 4)

3. Issues concerning the Round Table on Mining and Environment, held in Berlin in 1991, and implications of environment protection, conservation policies and strategies in the mineral sector.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the conclusions and recommendations of the Berlin Round Table on Mining and Environment: the impact of environment and conservation policies and regulations on the growth of the mining sector and special consideration of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Council resolution 1991/87, para. 4)

4. Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and national legislation regarding the activities of enterprises in this area.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on recent positive achievements in small-scale mining activities in developing countries, with emphasis on national legislation, progress in technology transfer and international cooperation, focusing on fostering entrepreneurship and the integration of rural regions, and including information on the economic contribution of women (Council resolution 1991/87, para. 5)

5. United Nations system: priority programmes for coordinated action:

(a) Information management;

(b) Capacity-building for mineral sector management.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General proposing mechanisms to monitor and gather information on a regular basis on (a) issues concerning the flow of investments in the mineral sector of developing countries; (b) capacity-building in investment promotion

6. Provisional programme of work for the second session of the Working Group.

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

D. Explanatory notes to the proposed programme of work and documentation

8. The proposed programme of work and documentation for the forthcoming session of the newly reorganized Committee on Natural Resources takes fully into account the mandates arising from the twelfth session of the Committee in its previous form. In addition, it proposes some new initiatives for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council in order to provide the new Committee with the material it needs to fulfil its mandate. The proposed organization of the work of the Committee is set out below.

1. Plenary session

9. In addition to items concerning the election of officers and adoption of the agenda of the Committee, it is proposed that issues related to permanent sovereignty, new techniques, including remote sensing, and disaster prevention and mitigation be dealt with in plenary session (agenda items 3, 4 and 5) as they are relevant to both mineral and water resources. The reports to be submitted are directly related to resolutions stemming from the twelfth session of the former Committee.

10. Following discussion of these items in plenary session, the Committee would break up into working groups in accordance with the new mandate from the General Assembly.

2. Working Group on Mineral Resources

11. Agenda item 2. The documentation for this item will be prepared pursuant to operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Council resolution 1991/87.

12. Agenda item 3. The documentation for this item will be prepared in response to operative paragraph 4 of the same resolution as it relates to the Berlin Round Table. The report will also comply with the provisions of operative paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1991/90.

13. Agenda item 4. The documentation will be prepared pursuant to operative paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1991/87.

14. Agenda item 5. This is a new item not directly derived from the previous session of the Committee, but well within its terms of reference. The objective is to seek guidelines from the Working Group on Mineral Resources for coordinating system-wide activities, and their integration in the form of reports to future sessions.

3. Working Group on Water Resources

15. Agenda item 2. The report to be prepared under this item would combine requests stemming from operative paragraphs 9 and 10 of Council resolution 1991/85, as they pertain to the summary of meetings, seminars and conferences, and to mandates of organizations. The report would aim to provide this information in the context of the activities of the organizations of the system.

16. Agenda item 3. The report would be prepared pursuant to operative paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1991/90. Accordingly, it would present to the Working Group the relevant provisions of Agenda 21.

17. Agenda item 4. The report would be submitted in response to operative paragraph 9 of Council resolution 1991/85. The report should deal with development issues that are at the basis of problems related to the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s.

18. Agenda item 5. This is a new item not directly derived from the previous session of the Committee, but well within its terms of reference. The two reports will be designed to deal with issues requiring a coordinated approach by the organizations of the United Nations system, and seek the guidance of the Working Group for action in this regard.

E. Original terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources

19. The terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources, as established by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970, included responsibilities for:

(a) Assistance to the Council in providing guidance in the programming and implementation of activities in the United Nations system for the development of [natural] resources, [particularly with regard to the development of water, energy and mineral resources, keeping in mind requirements for planning for the Second United Nations Development Decade] and for the protection of the human environment, and new technological developments in the field of [natural] resources;

(b) The establishment of guidelines for the provision and for the improvement and strengthening of advisory services to the Governments of Member States, to be made available at their request, for the planning, development and utilization of their [natural resources] within the framework of their overall development plans;

(c) [The substantive review and reformulation of the survey programme as originally planned;]

(d) The analysis of existing resolutions in the field of [natural] resources, with a view to recommending the consolidation and streamlining of their legislative basis;

(e) The selection and follow-up of priority questions concerning long-term problems and trends of world-wide significance in the field of [natural] resources;

(f) The examination of reports concerning operational and research activities in connection with [natural] resources, including reports from relevant panels and seminars already in the programme and from such as may develop;

(g) Appropriate attention to the problems of research promotion and of the exchange and dissemination of experience and information in the fields of development, utilization and conservation of [natural] resources;

(h) Recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and, through the Council, to Governments and also to other bodies, such as the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, on appropriate priorities, programme emphasis and other relevant matters concerning the [exploration and exploitation of natural resources];

(i) Assistance to the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in maintaining the necessary liaison between the activities in the field of [natural] resources of the regional economic commissions, the

specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and cooperation;

(j) Such other relevant functions as the Council may assign to the Committee from time to time.

Note: Brackets placed around specific parts of the terms of reference are used to identify areas where changes will be proposed.

F. Proposed revised terms of reference for the new Committee on Natural Resources

20. The proposed revisions are based entirely on the terms of reference contained in the original mandate of the Committee, and are designed to take into account changes brought about by General Assembly resolution 46/235, as well as recent developments of particular significance. The proposed terms of reference are as follows:

(a) Assistance to the Council in providing guidance in the programming and implementation of activities in the United Nations system for the development of mineral and water resources, keeping in mind requirements for planning for the present and forthcoming United Nations Development Decades, and for the protection of the human environment and the sustainable development of mineral and water resources, and new technological developments in these fields;

(b) The establishment of guidelines for the provision and for the improvement and strengthening of advisory services to the Governments of Member States, to be made available at their request, for the planning, development and utilization of their mineral and water resources within the framework of their overall development plans;

(c) The substantive review of global surveys concerning mineral and water resources;*

(d) The analysis of existing resolutions in the field of mineral and water resources, with a view to recommending the consolidation and streamlining of their legislative basis;

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* The survey programme for the development of natural resources dates back to the 1960s, and was never implemented as proposed owing to a lack of funds. However, the Council may wish to consider the desirability of empowering the Committee to consider on a periodic basis general surveys of the situation concerning mineral and water resources, with a view to providing policy guidance.

(e) The selection and follow-up of priority questions concerning long-term problems and trends of world-wide significance in the field of mineral and water resources;

(f) The examination of reports concerning operational and research activities in connection with mineral and water resources, including reports from relevant panels and seminars already in the programme and from such as may develop;

(g) Appropriate attention to the problems of research promotion and of the exchange and dissemination of experience and information in the fields of development, utilization and conservation of mineral and water resources;

(h) Recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and, through the Council, to Governments and also to other bodies, such as the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, on appropriate priorities, programme emphasis and other relevant matters concerning the sustainable development of mineral and water resources;

(i) Assistance to the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in maintaining the necessary liaison between the activities in the field of mineral and water resources of the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and cooperation;

(j) Such other relevant functions as the Council may assign to the Committee from time to time.

III. COMMITTEE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND ON ENERGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

A. Consolidated mandates

21. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development will retain the current mandate of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, including the consideration of its relation to environment and development. In addition, it will take over the present mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources pertaining to energy, as defined in Economic and Social Council resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970.

1. Mandate of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

22. The General Assembly, in its resolution 37/250, section II, while reaffirming the significance and importance of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 4/

decided to establish an intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, open to the participation of all States as full members. The Committee was to meet every two years in even years and it was to submit its reports and recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

23. It was also decided in that resolution that the Committee should assist the General Assembly in, inter alia, the following functions:

(a) Recommending policy guidelines for different organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to new and renewable sources of energy, on the basis of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(b) Formulating and recommending action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action in accordance with the priorities identified in paragraphs 47 to 56 thereof;

(c) Keeping under review and modifying as may be necessary the priorities established in paragraphs 47 to 56 of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(d) Reviewing and assessing trends and policy measures related to the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to increasing their contributions to meeting future overall energy requirements;

(e) Promoting the mobilization of the resources required in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(f) Recommending guidelines to the financial organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the financing of the activities related to the implementation of the measures of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and helping to ensure the implementation of the measures listed in section III of the Programme relating to financial resources;

(g) Monitoring the implementation and helping to ensure coordination of the measures established in the Nairobi Programme of Action as well as of the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(h) Being informed of, drawing upon and contributing to the work and expertise of governmental and intergovernmental institutions in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(i) Reviewing the activities of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and where necessary making recommendations on the adaptation of the Programme.

24. In section IV of the resolution, on mobilization of resources for new and renewable sources of energy, the General Assembly:

(a) Emphasized that the early implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action required the mobilization of additional and adequate resources and that each country would continue to bear the main responsibility for the development of its new and renewable sources of energy, which would require vigorous measures for a fuller mobilization of its domestic financial and other resources;

(b) Called, to that end, for the urgent implementation of the measures for the mobilization of financial resources as enumerated in paragraphs 76 to 95 of the Nairobi Programme of Action, as well as in paragraphs 93, 94 and 96 to 102 of the report of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 5/ and called upon all countries, particularly the developed countries and other countries in a position to do so, for the provision of additional and adequate financial resources to the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(c) Stressed the significant role which consultative meetings, as called for in paragraph 91 of the Nairobi Programme of Action and paragraph 98 of the report of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, could play in the mobilization of additional financial resources for new and renewable sources of energy, and decided that they should be convened in this field, as required, by the appropriate entities in the United Nations system, with the participation of multilateral and bilateral donors and interested recipient countries, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, within the framework of the Nairobi Programme of Action, taking into account national plans and priorities and operating on a non-discriminatory basis;

(d) Emphasized that such meetings should be consistent with existing procedures, for example, along the lines of the roundtables held by the United Nations Development Programme and the consultative groups convened by the World Bank, and reiterated the role which the United Nations system must continue to play at the national level through the resident coordinators of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, at the request of the countries concerned, at the regional level through the regional commissions and at the global level, through the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, by the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(e) Reaffirmed, in that context, that specific and additional resources should be directed through such channels as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, the long-term financial arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, the United Nations Development Programme Energy Account and others directly or indirectly involved, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

(f) Further emphasized the role which an energy affiliate for the development of energy resources of developing countries within the World Bank could play with a view to generating additional resources, and stressed the importance of the consideration of other complementary frameworks for the mobilization of financial resources to assure, on an urgent basis, the expenditures and investment needs of the developing countries, and called upon Member States to make appropriate efforts to that end in the relevant forums;

25. In section V of the resolution, on coordination within the United Nations system, the Assembly:

(a) Reiterated the call made in its resolution 36/193 for enhancing cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(b) Reaffirmed the role of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, within the framework of his mandate as defined by the General Assembly in its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and paragraph 63 of the Nairobi Programme of Action, in providing overall co-ordination in the field of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system;

(c) Endorsed the recommendation of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy regarding the establishment of an appropriate mechanism for coordination, and requested the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to convene an ad hoc inter-agency meeting in early 1983 in order to establish an ad hoc inter-agency group and to define its terms of reference;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the Nairobi Programme of Action, the conclusions and recommendations of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the provisions of the present resolution, to submit a report to the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its first regular session, in 1983, which would contain, inter alia, practical proposals regarding:

(i) Guidelines for the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system on the preparation and convening of consultative meetings, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 4 of section IV above;

(ii) Ways and means of improving the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination through the Administrative Committee on Coordination in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(iii) Further ways and means of mobilizing financial sources for new and renewable sources of energy.

2. Mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources pertaining to energy resources

26. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970, decided that the terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources should include, with due respect for the concept of the sovereignty of every nation, responsibilities for:

(a) Assistance to the Council in providing guidance in the programming and implementation of activities in the United Nations system for the development of natural resources, particularly with regard to the development of [water,] energy [and mineral resources,] keeping in mind requirements for planning for the Second United Nations Development Decade and for the protection of the human environment, and new technological developments in the field of energy [natural resources];

(b) The establishment of guidelines for the provision and for the improvement and strengthening of advisory services to the Governments of Member States, to be made available at their request, for the planning, development and utilization of their [natural] energy resources within the framework of their overall development plans;

(c) The substantive review and reformulation of the survey programme as originally planned; 6/

(d) The analysis of existing resolutions in the field of energy [natural resources], with a view to recommending the consolidation and streamlining of their legislative basis;

(e) The selection and follow-up of priority questions concerning long-term problems and trends of world-wide significance in the field of energy [natural resources];

(f) The examination of reports concerning operational and research activities in connection with energy [natural resources], including reports from relevant panels and seminars already in the programme and from such as may develop;

(g) Appropriate attention to the problems of research promotion and of the exchange and dissemination of experience and information in the fields of the development, utilization and conservation of energy [natural resources];

(h) Recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and, through the Council, to Governments and also to other bodies, such as the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, on appropriate priorities, programme emphasis and other relevant matters concerning the exploration and exploitation of energy [natural resources];

(i) Assistance to the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in maintaining the necessary liaison between the activities in the field of energy [natural resources] of the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and cooperation;

(j) Such other relevant functions as the Council may assign to the Committee from time to time.

Note: Brackets placed around specific parts of the terms of reference are used to identify areas where changes will be proposed.

3. Expected mandates pertaining to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, in relation to environment and sustainable development as defined in Agenda 21*

27. These mandates are drawn from document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.47, covering section II, chapter 1, of Agenda 21. Next to each subheading is indicated in parentheses the paragraph from which the mandate is taken:

(a) Promoting sustainable development: energy development, efficiency and consumption (para. 9 (a) to (l))

(i) To cooperate in identifying and developing energy sources to promote the availability of increased energy supplies, to support sustainable development efforts;

(ii) To cooperate in the development of appropriate methodologies for making integrated energy, environment and economic policy decisions while supporting efforts to carry out environmental impact assessments of decisions and projects. Planning and implementation of energy efficiency should, as much as possible, be adapted by countries;

(iii) To promote the transfer, development and use of improved energy-efficient technologies, including indigenous technologies, in all relevant sectors, giving special attention to renewable sources of energy and the rehabilitation and modernization of power systems, through capacity-building and management;

(iv) To study and develop economic instruments, which may play an important role in achieving structural changes and improved efficiency in the production and consumption of energy;

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* Following adoption of Agenda 21 by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, June 1992.

(v) To review current energy supply mixes to determine how the contribution of environmentally sound energy systems as a whole, particularly new and renewable energy sources, could be increased in an economically efficient manner, taking into account respective countries' unique characteristics, including measures that would ensure that new and renewable energy sources are not discriminated against in domestic energy markets;

(vi) To coordinate energy plans regionally and subregionally, and to study the feasibility of efficient distribution of energy from new and renewable energy sources;

(vii) To consider, with a view to increasing research, development and the introduction of environmentally sound energy systems, particularly for renewable energy sources, and to promote research and development;

(viii) To cooperate and to increase the availability of capacity, capabilities and relevant technologies in developing countries for utilizing and producing environmentally sound renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and biomass, including woodfuel resources;

(ix) To develop sustainable energy policies in order to improve energy efficiency by:

a. Formulating, in cooperation with the private sector, appropriate objectives or policies relating to energy production and consumption;

b. Promoting application of economic instruments, with a view to taking into account environmental and other social costs while encouraging greater efficiency;

c. Building capacity for energy planning and programme management in energy efficiency, including the introduction, development and management of new and renewable sources of energy;

(x) To strengthen existing and/or set new energy efficiency and emission standards or recommendations on specific technologies, as appropriate. Countries may wish to coordinate these standards at regional or subregional levels. Such standards should provide ongoing incentives for more efficient and less polluting energy use, with special attention being paid to the promotion of the development and use of alternative and less polluting technologies;

(xi) To encourage education and awareness-raising programmes at the local, national, subregional and regional levels concerning energy efficiency and environmentally sound energy systems;

(xii) To establish or enhance, as appropriate, in cooperation with the private sector, labelling programmes for products to provide decision makers and consumers with information on opportunities for energy efficiency.

(b) Transportation (para. 12 (a) to (d))

(i) To develop and promote more efficient and less polluting transport systems, particularly integrated rural and urban mass transit;

(ii) To facilitate the transfer of safe, energy-efficient and less polluting transport technologies to developing countries, including appropriate training programmes;

(iii) To strengthen efforts at collecting, analysing and exchanging relevant information on the relation between environment and transport, with particular attention given to systematic observation of emissions and to the development of a transport database;

(iv) To aim at enhancing and developing environmentally sustainable transportation systems, evaluate and, as appropriate, promote economic mechanisms, including pricing, which, inter alia, seek to discourage large, fuel-consuming and polluting vehicles, and encourage the development and use of alternative fuels.

(c) Industrial development (para. 15 (a) to (c))

(i) To encourage industry to increase and strengthen its capacity to develop products and processes that are more energy-efficient, safe and environmentally sound;

(ii) To develop, improve and apply environmental impact assessments to foster sustainable industrial development;

(iii) To support initiatives promoting clean and more efficient technologies and processes in industries with a view to limiting industrial pollution.

(d) Transboundary atmospheric pollution (para. 25 (a) and (d))

(i) To establish and/or strengthen regional agreements for transboundary air pollution control and cooperate in the areas of systematic observation and assessment, modelling and the development and exchange of emission control technologies of sources of air pollution. Greater emphasis should be put on addressing the extent, causes, health and socio-economic impacts of ultraviolet radiation, acidification of the environment and photo-oxidant damage to forests and other vegetation;

(ii) To cooperate on regional, multilateral and bilateral bases to assess transboundary air pollution, and elaborate and implement programmes identifying specific actions to reduce atmospheric emissions and to address their environmental, economic, social and other effects.

B. Draft provisional agenda and documentation for the first session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. This may include the following topics:

(a) Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(b) Recommendation of policy guidelines for different organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with regard to new and renewable sources of energy on the basis of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(c) Formulation and recommendations of action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action in accordance with priorities identified therein;

(d) Inter-agency coordination for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(e) Promotion of the mobilization of financial resources required in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on new technological developments, techniques and strategies for identifying, locating and evaluating new and renewable sources of energy, taking into account environmental considerations

Report of the Secretary-General on experiences gained worldwide in implementing new and renewable sources of energy, as well as proposals for effective energy policies, compatible with sustainable development

4. Energy for development. Discussions to include the following topics:

(a) Assessment and development of petroleum, natural gas and coal resources;

(b) Facilitation of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for energy production, conversion and consumption;

(c) Rehabilitation and modernization of power systems, including power system loss reduction programmes;

(d) Issues involved in institutional strengthening, capacity-building and training;

(e) Securing adequate levels of financing for capital-intensive energy projects.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy resources (Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/86, para. 6)

Report of the Secretary-General on human resources development in the field of energy (Council resolution 1991/86, para. 8)

Report of the Secretary-General on issues in the transfer of clean coal technologies to developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means by which the energy policy objectives proposed by the World Bank to the developing countries and the policies and objectives contained in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade could correspond (Council resolution 1991/86, para. 7)

5. Implementation of Agenda 21 with regard to the development, conversion and use of energy, including new and renewable sources, in relation to environment and sustainable development. Discussions to include the following topics:

(a) Promoting the transfer, development and use of energy-efficient technologies;

(b) Optimization of energy supply and conversion activities in order to minimize environmental impacts;

(c) Promoting the rational use of energy through the practice of energy demand management.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on means to promote and implement energy efficiency in the productive sector in developing countries, focusing on governmental policies, legislation, capacity-building, private sector economic incentive programmes, energy audit programmes, and issues in the transfer of energy-efficient technologies

Report of the Secretary-General on issues relating to energy, environment and sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on the nature, status and prospects of applications of mature renewable sources of energy technologies, with special emphasis on developing countries, for an environmentally sound energy mix

6. Medium-term planning in the field of development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, energy for development and sections in Agenda 21 relating to energy, environment and sustainable development.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session.

C. Summary of documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on new technological developments, techniques and strategies for identifying, locating and evaluating new and renewable sources of energy, taking into account environmental considerations

Report of the Secretary-General on experiences gained worldwide in implementing new and renewable sources of energy, as well as proposals for effective energy policies, compatible with sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy resources (Council resolution 1991/86, para. 6)

Report of the Secretary-General on human resources development in the field of energy (Council resolution 1991/86, para. 8)

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Report of the Secretary-General on issues relating to energy, environment and sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on the nature, status and prospects of applications of mature renewable energy technologies, with special emphasis on developing countries, for an environmentally sound energy mix

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/35/37), part two, annex.

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth session, Supplement No. 37 (A/46/37).

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and Corr. 1 and 2), chap. VII.

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 47 (A/37/47) and Corr.1).

6/ Economic and Social Council resolution 1218 (XLII) of 1 June 1967; see also Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 3, document E/4302.